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Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 IO-13 ADP-00 SCI-06 AEC-11 PM-07

SS-15 L-03 H-03 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

EA-11 SCEM-02 /137 R

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8/8/73 EXT. 27751
APPROVED BY SCI/AE:JLBLOOM
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AEC/DIP:ASFRIEDMAN
NEA/EGY:GNANDERSON
EUR/CE:LHEICHLER
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R 082054Z AUG 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA
USINT CAIRO
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 156583

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TECH, GW, EG
SUBJECT: PNE'S AND THE QATTARA DEPRESSION
REF: BONN 9458

1. ON JULY 12, 1973 A MEETING WAS HELD AT AEC HEADQUARTERS, GERMANTOWN ON THE SUBJECT OF THE BASSLER STUDY OF THE QATTARA DEPRESSION CANAL. A MEMCON REPORTING ON THIS MEETING HAS BEEN POUCHED FOR BACKGROUND INFORMATION.

2. ACCORDING TO REFTEL, THE FRG IS IN THE PROCESS OF REVIEWING THIS PROJECT IN ORDER TO DECIDE WHETHER TO SUPPORT A FEASIBILITY STUDY. THE BASSLER REPORT MAKES REFERENCE TO APPRAISAL OF THE PROJECT BY THE USAEC AND CONFIDENTIAL

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TO A "POSITIVE POSITION PAPER" BY THE LAWRENCE RADIATION LABORATORY. THE BASSLER REPORT DOES NOT CONTAIN ANY REFERENCE TO THE LIMITED TEST BAN TREATY. FOR THESE REASONS, THE EMBASSY MAY DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING POINTS

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IF THE QATTARA DEPRESSION PROJECT IS RAISED BY FRG OFFICIALS.

A. AS PARTIES TO THE TREATY BANNING NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTS IN THE ATMOSPHERE, IN OUTER SPACE AND UNDER WATER (LTBT), THE UNITED STATES, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AND EGYPT ARE PROHIBITED FROM ANY INVOLVEMENT WITH ANY NUCLEAR EXPLOSION CAUSING RADIOACTIVE DEBRIS TO BE PRESENT OUTSIDE THE TERRITORIAL LIMITS OF THE STATE IN WHICH THE EXPLOSION IS CONDUCTED. THE PROPOSED PROJECT WOULD CAUSE SUCH DEBRIS TO BE PRESENT OUTSIDE EGYPT.

B. FURTHERMORE, PARTIES TO THE LTBT ARE FORBIDDEN, INTER ALIA, FROM EVEN ENCOURAGING ANY NUCLEAR EXPLOSION WHICH WOULD VIOLATE THE LTBT.

C. ALTHOUGH THE LTBT DOES PROVIDE FOR ITS AMENDMENT, THIS REQUIRES AGREEMENT BY A MAJORITY OF ALL THE PARTIES OF WHICH THERE ARE NOW OVER 100. IN VIEW OF THE INCREASING WORLD-WIDE CONCERNS REGARDING ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION AND LEVELS OF RADIOACTIVITY, AMENDMENT OF THE LTBT TO ALLOW EXCAVATION PROJECTS, SUCH AS THAT FOR THE QATTARA DEPRESSION COULD BE DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE. FYI: STATE HAS REQUESTED AEC RECOMMENDATIONS RE POSSIBLE RADIOACTIVITY CRITERIA THAT MIGHT BE CONSIDERED ACCEPTABLE INTERNATIONALLY IN SOME FUTURE MODIFICATION OF THE LTBT. NO ACTION BY THE US TO SPONSOR SUCH MODIFICATION IS CURRENTLY CONTEMPLATED, HOWEVER. END FYI.

D. NONE OF THE ADVICE PROVIDED BY PERSONNEL OF THE LAWRENCE LIVERMORE LABORATORIES AND NONE OF THE DISCUSSIONS TO DATE INVOLVING US GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL SHOULD BE TAKEN TO IMPLY ANY US AGREEMENT FOR FURTHER ASSISTANCE AND ADVICE OR ANY ENDORSEMENT BY THE UNITED STATES OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT.

E. THE DISCUSSIONS AND EXCHANGES TO DATE CARRY CONFIDENTIAL

ABSOLUTELY NO COMMITMENT BY THE UNITED STATES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROJECT OR TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH IT IN ANY WAY SHOULD THE PROJECT EVER BE UNDERTAKEN.

F. IN ADDITION, ANY ASSISTANCE BY THE US FOR THE PROJECT OR FOR THE FEASIBILITY STUDY WOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1967 WHICH STATES THAT NO NATION WHICH HAS BROKEN RELATIONS WITH THE US CAN RECEIVE ASSISTANCE FROM THE US.

G. APPLICATION TO THE IAEA FOR PNE SERVICES FOR THE PROJECT WILL NOT ALTER ANY OF THE ABOVE POINTS. FYI: POSSIBILITY OF USSR OR FRENCH COOPERATION WITH FRG AND

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EGYPT IS CONSIDERED UNLIKELY AND WOULD COMPLICATE MATTERS.
USSR IS PARTY TO LTBT BUT IS INTERESTED IN NEAR-TERM
TREATY MODIFICATION TO ALLOW PROJECTS SUCH AS THEIR
KAMA-PECHORA CANAL. FRANCE IS NOT A PARTY TO THE LTBT.
END FYI.

3. AS INDICATED IN THE ATTACHED MEMCON THE FRG
MINISTRIES OF ECONOMICS AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND THE

GOVERNMENT RECONSTRUCTION BANK ARE INVOLVED IN EVALUATION
OF THE PROJECT. IT IS DESIRABLE THAT APPROPRIATE
OFFICIALS OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS ALSO BE MADE AWARE OF
THE ABOVE POINTS EITHER DIRECTLY OR THROUGH THE FOREIGN
OFFICE, IF THE SUBJECT IS RAISED BY FRG OFFICIALS.
ROGERS

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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